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1970/02/21

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Department of State

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WARSAW 378

NOBIS

SUBJECT: Informal Meeting with PRC Diplomats

REF : (A) STATE 025170; (B) WARSAW 376

1. KREISBERG and ANDERSON met with interpreter CH' IEN and scribe YEH at American Embassy February 21, thus extending principle of meeting in alternate embassies to informal as well as formal meetings. Meeting was conducted primarily in English.

2. Kreisberg began by passing Ch'ien copy of President's foreign policy statement and letter concerning Chinese fisherman (ref A). Ch'ien examined letter and said he would pass both letter and President's report to his Chargé. He noted he had already passed to Chargé our message concerning our regret at having arrived late to meet them for formal meeting.

3. Kreisberg then suggested informally that US thought

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CLEARANCES

PHKreisberg

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It good idea to get away from numbered series of meetings, saying that we felt that continuation ~~NUMBER~~ conveyed impression of previous static situation and we hoped that simply identifying meetings by date would more accurately reflect what we hoped was a new beginning. Ch'ien noted suggestion and asked if this was a formal proposal. Kreisberg responded that his views had approval of Washington. Ch'ien said he would inform Charge and that Chinese response would be communicated through Embassy liaison officers.

4. Discussion then moved to question of motivation for resumption of talks, with Kreisberg noting that there had been a good bit of press speculation in both West and Soviet Union and Eastern Europe to effect that both PRC and US interest ~~X~~ in meetings primarily motivated by ~~XX~~ utility in relations with Moscow. Kreisberg said that this ~~XX~~ not the case with US and he hoped that same was true for Chinese. Ch'ien responded that Chinese position "was clear", that this simply a resumption of talks begun long ago and was at request of US. Both sides finally agreed that resumption of talks and improvement of relations in interests of both sides.

5. Most interesting point in conversation came during discussion of technical problems in recording of previous day's meeting. Kreisberg asked about one of the terms used in the Chinese statement referring to Taiwan in which they said they realized that great efforts would be required to

resolve this question (ref B). He said that he assumed that implicit in this sentence was idea that efforts would be made by both sides. Ch'ien paused for a moment, smiled and said in Chinese, "I understand you are both China specialists. I think you should study it very carefully".

6. During side conversation between Kreisberg and Ch'ien, Kreisberg mentioned names of some other prisoners held in China, and Ch'ien volunteered statement that there were "only two" American pilots held by PRC. Kreisberg asked if that meant they did not have Dunn. Ch'ien replied only that he had no information about Dunn.

7. Meeting lasted forty minutes and was conducted in relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

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STOKESSEL